

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Strawberry Hill (Hilltops) Inventory Number: BA-189  
Address: 14626 Thornton Mill Road City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152-9633  
County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Hereford  
Owner: Thornton Mill LLC Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: 278 Tax Map Number: 34 Tax Account ID Number: 2200029083  
Project: Walsh Property Floodplain Study Agency: MDE Permit Tracking #200366127/N66158  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☒ yes ☐ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: BA- 2214

NR-listed district ☒ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Introduction

Strawberry Hill (Hilltops) was documented in September 1976 on a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (MIHP No. BA-189) (Black and Wollon 1976a). The property is located within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2214), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in March 1978 (Black and Wollon 1976b). The purpose of this Determination of Eligibility form is to update the 1976 MIHP form and to provide an assessment of the potential of the resource to contribute to the significance of the historic district. A brief reconnaissance survey of Strawberry Hill was conducted on 3 October 2006; interior access was not possible.

Description

A long driveway descending over a hill leads to Strawberry Hill at 14626 Thornton Mill Road. A stone dwelling constructed in 1811 stands on the 27.61-acre property (Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation 2006).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: Contributes to BA-2214

Jonathan Sage  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/28/06  
Date

[Signature]  
Reviewer, NR Program

11/28/06  
Date

200603702

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

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When the 1976 documentation was prepared, the property also included a ca. 1811 root cellar under the portico on the north elevation of the house, as well as the stone walls of a former bank barn built in 1808 (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-3).

The dwelling's south elevation is the original façade; however, the driveway approaches the north elevation, which currently appears to function as the principal front (Black and Wollon 1976a:7). The house includes a two-and-one-half-story main block and a one-and-one-half-story side kitchen wing on the east end. Both sections, which are constructed of randomly laid stone and terminate in gable roofs, appear to have been built at the same time (1811). A one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame, gable-roof section was added to the north elevation of the wing in the mid-twentieth century. The dwelling basically retains the form and materials described in MIHP Form BA-189 prepared in 1976 (Black and Wollon 1976a).

The two-and-one-half-story, three-bay main block has a central hall floor plan. Only the north elevation (originally the rear elevation) was visible during the brief survey. A one-story, one-bay, gabled portico sheathed in standing-seam metal shelters the centrally-located main entrance. Windows are six-over-six-light units; however, it is not clear if these are original. Wood lintels with flared ends ornament the windows. At the time of the 1976 documentation, first-story windows had paneled shutters and second-story windows had louvered blinds; on the north elevation, only the window in the first-story east bay retains shutters (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-1). A narrow wood cornice is located along the north elevation. Three gabled dormers with six-over-six-light windows pierce the north slope of the gable roof; these dormers were installed in the mid-twentieth century (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-1). Roof sheathing appears to be asphalt shingles ornamented with snow geese. An interior brick chimney rises at each gable end. According to the 1976 documentation, a stone on the northwest corner of the main block is inscribed with the name "A. OGDEN" and the date "1811" (Black and Wollon 1976a:7).

The one-and-one-half-story side kitchen wing on the east end of the main block has paired, four-light casement windows. The gable roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal. A stone chimney rises at the east end of the wing. According to the 1976 MIHP form, the basement of the wing contains a large cooking fireplace (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-3).

The mid-twentieth century, one-and-one-half-story, two-bay, wood-frame addition on the north elevation of the kitchen wing resembles the wing in form and window detailing. The gable roof is sheathed in standing-seam metal. A stone exterior chimney rises along the north gable end. A one-story, shed-roof, partially enclosed porch with an entrance on the north elevation is located in the corner where the addition meets the wing. A one-story, shed-roof section with a continuous shed dormer has been constructed along the east elevation of the addition.

#### Outbuildings

The 1976 MIHP form documented a root cellar located under the portico on the north elevation; the root cellar probably was constructed with the house in 1811 (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-3). In 1976, the root cellar was described as a two-room, vaulted stone structure accessible from the basement of the main block. Due to limited access, the root cellar was not inspected during the current investigation.

The 1976 MIHP form documented surviving stone walls of a former bank barn located southwest of the house (Black and Wollon 1976a:7-3). A stone on one of the surviving walls was inscribed with the name "A. OGDEN" and the date "1808." These bank barn ruins were not located during the current investigation; it is unclear if they survive.

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**NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

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History

Settlement within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District began in the eighteenth century. The region was primarily agricultural and rich in limestone, a resource used for both fertilizer and construction. The area historically contained many saw and grist mills to aid the local farmers. Small villages and hamlets, many of which no longer survive, sprang up at various crossroads within the region. At the time of the 1976 National Register nomination, many descendants of the original settlers continued to reside within the district on the land farmed by their ancestors. Numerous early nineteenth-century dwellings currently survive (Black and Wollon 1976b).

Research previously conducted on Strawberry Hill is documented in MIHP Form BA-189 (Black and Wollon 1976a). The house was built by Amos Ogden in 1811 on a 150-acre tract of land known as Taylor's Discovery, which was purchased by Ogden in 1794. Before constructing the house, Ogden built the barn in 1808. Two brothers, Thomas and Beal Price, purchased the property by 1823 and named it Strawberry Hill. The heirs of Amos Ogden were granted "free access to the family vault," which has not been located (Black and Wollon 1976a:8). The Price family, who were members of the Gunpowder Friends' Meeting, owned the property until 1870.

Evaluation

Strawberry Hill is located within the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2214), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District is the eastern extension of the Worthington Valley Historic District (MIHP No. BA-2215), also listed in the National Register. The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District is a large, rural historic district encompassing 9,975 acres; the district is significant for its association with agriculture in Baltimore County applying National Register Criterion A and for architecture applying National Register Criterion C. The period of significance discussed in the National Register nomination form was unspecified; however, the nomination form emphasized built resources constructed during the late-eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century (Black and Wollon 1976b). As documented in MIHP No. BA-2214:

"Historically, this district has always been an agricultural area. From the earliest times, it was recognized for the large and prosperous farms which produced crops of corn and grass, cattle and sheep" (Black and Wollon 1976b:8-11).

The Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District contains a collection of farmsteads, houses, and agricultural outbuildings that exhibit the distinctive characteristics of their types, periods, and methods of construction applying National Register Criterion C, with particular emphasis on buildings constructed between the late-eighteenth century through ca. 1850. According to MIHP No. BA-2214:

"Structures in this district have always been traditional in form and detail, little affected by current style or taste. The abundant stone is the typical building material, recognized and appreciated for its permanence, obviously a most important detail to early builders. The absence of important late nineteenth-century houses indicates the early prosperity which the area enjoyed, the conservative taste of its inhabitants and the degree of permanence which earlier builders incorporated into their structures" (Black and Wollon 1976b:7-1).

The Strawberry Hill property is a representative example of the type, period, and method of construction of buildings constructed during the first half of the nineteenth century in the district; references to the house, barn, and root cellar were made in the 1976 Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District nomination form (Black and Wollon 1976b:7-2, 7-7, 7-8). Constructed of stone, the 1811 Strawberry Hill dwelling has a traditional center hall plan with

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Continuation Sheet No. 3

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a kitchen wing. The center hall plan and kitchen wing was a prevalent building form during the early-nineteenth century as the region was settled (Black and Wollon 1976b:7-3). Applying National Register Criterion C, Strawberry Hill (MIHP No. BA-189) possesses the qualities of significance and integrity necessary to be a contributing resource to the Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District. The house retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Due to limited access, the 1811 root cellar and the 1808 bank barn ruins (if surviving) were not inspected nor evaluated as part of the current investigation.

References Cited

Black, Catherine F., and James T. Wollon, Jr.

1976a Strawberry Hill (Hilltops). Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form BA-189. On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

1976b Western Run-Belfast Road Historic District. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form/Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties No. BA-2214. On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

2006 Real Property Data, Baltimore County.

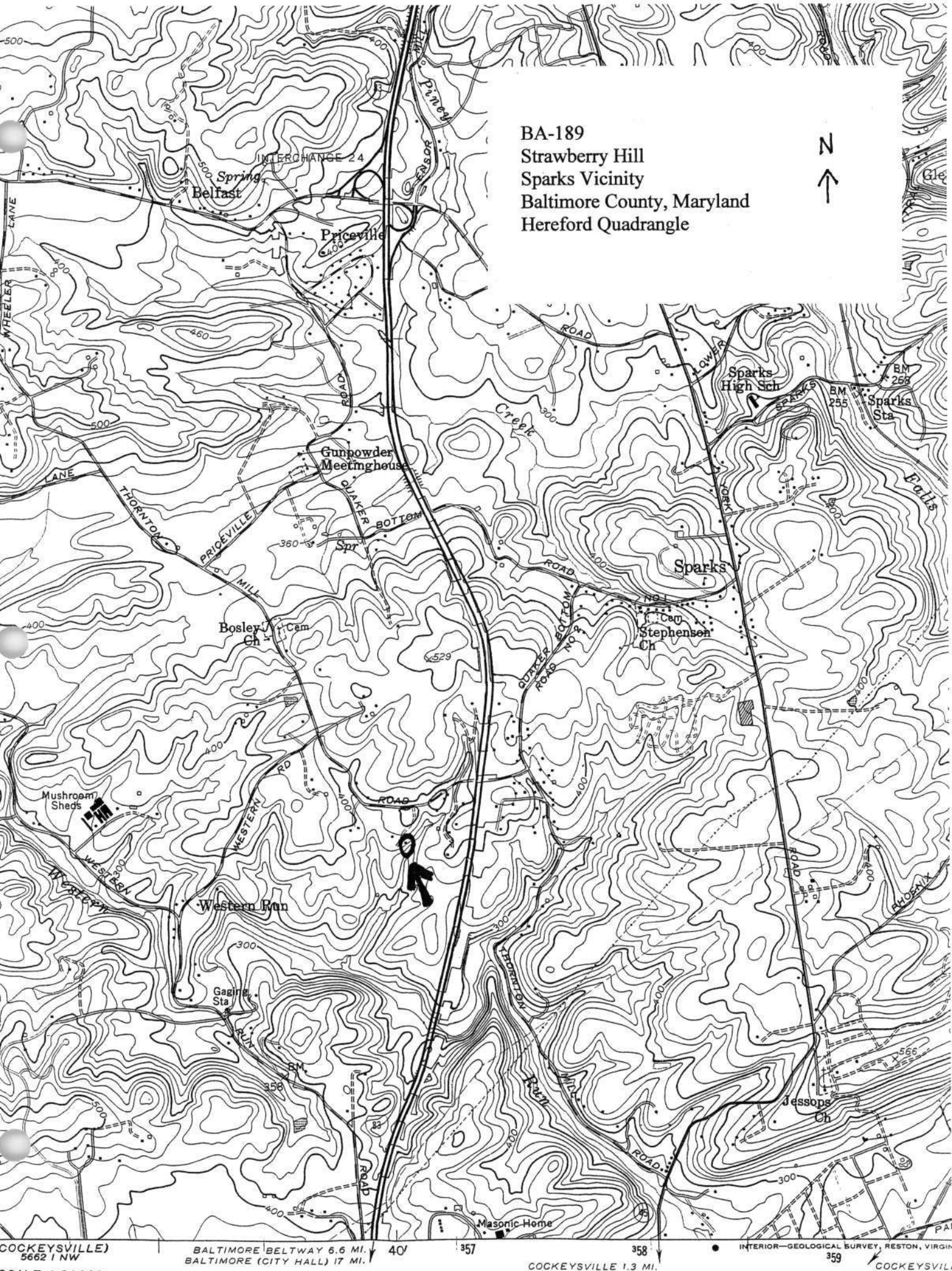
Kathryn Dixon, Historic  
Preservation Specialist;  
Katherine Grandine, Senior Project  
Manager -  
R. Christopher Goodwin &  
Associates, Inc.

Prepared by:

Date Prepared: October 2006



N  
↑





BA-189

Strawberry Hill

Baltimore Co, MD

RCG+A, Inc.

October 2006

Neg.: MD SHPO

NW corner

1/1

0301895335

Strawberry Hill  
West side of Thornton Mill  
Rd. near Western Rd.  
Not accessible  
1811 (dwelling)  
1808 (barn)

This substantial farm dwelling was erected a few years after the barn, indicative of its practical builder's priorities. The builder, Amos Ogden, was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1805. He purchased one hundred fifty acres of a tract called Taylor's Discovery in 1794, a tract which had been patented in 1726 by Richard Taylor. Like all structures with reliable datestones, this one, which retains many of its original details, is a standard to use in establishing the dates of updated structures in the region.



## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Strawberry Hill

AND/OR COMMON

Hilltops

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Thornton Mill Road near Western Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Allen C. Hopkins

Telephone #: 685-4847

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Thornton Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 4795

Folio #: 476

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-189

**CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hilltops is a two and one-half storey rubble stone house, three bays in length, its principal facade to the south although its approach is from the north; it has an east wing of rubble stone, two bays in length, two storeys high. Both sections have gable roofs; flush end chimneys of brick rise from each end of the main house, while the flush end chimney of the east wing is of stone. A wing of mid-twentieth century construction extends north from the easterly bay of the wing; it is of frame, two bays in length, two storeys high with a brick and stone exterior chimney at the north gable end. The form of the new wing recalls that of the old.

High in the northwest corner, one of the roughly worked stone quoins is inscribed:

A. OGDEN  
1811

The general form and the many remaining original details of this house are consistent with this date. Traditionally, the east wing is considered earlier than the main house; there are no quoins and no visible joints in the masonry between the two sections, with the possible exception of the exposed portion of the foundation above grade on the south facade, where a vertical joint is suggested, inconclusively. Internally, the east wing has its own west wall at the cellar level only, suggesting the possibility that the foundation predates all construction above, having once supported a log structure, perhaps. Very little interior detailing

(see continuation sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES dwelling 1811; barn 1808 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hilltops bears an 1811 datestone and, as it retains many of its original details, can be used as a standard to establish the dates of other structures in the area.

Amos Ogden, the builder, was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates in 1805. In 1794, he purchased one hundred fifty acres of a tract called Taylor's Discovery which had been patented in 1726 by Richard Taylor for five hundred five acres. The barn which is now ruinous dated 1808, a fact indicative of Ogden's priorities. Undoubtedly he lived at first in one of the two old houses listed here on the 1798 Federal Tax Assessment.

By 1823, the present house and property belonged to two brothers, Thomas and Beal Price and was named "Strawberry Hill". An early deed gave the heirs of Amos Ogden "free access to the family vault". Where this was located has not been established.

The Prices were prominent in the neighborhood and members of the Gunpowder Friends' Meeting. They held the property until 1870 when it was sold to Mordecai Ensor and thereafter to a succession of owners. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Hopkins, have lived here since 1967.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798.

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1823, 1876, 1896.

(see continuation sheet #4)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

DATE

September 1976

TELEPHONE

323-3798

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

remains in the first storey of the wing, and original detailing in the second storey is traditional and cannot be conclusively dated.

The approximate measurements of the east wing are 14 by 18 feet, the latter dimension being the north-south one. No structure of this size was included on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

A one storey, one bay portico shelters the north entrance to the main house, through the middle bay. A one storey hipped roof porch shelters the south entrance; flanking bays are unusually wide, allowing the south porch to be three bays in length, as defined by its simple, square wooden columns, extending to, but not in front of, windows of flanking bays. Secondary entrances to the east wing are in the west bay of the south front and in the east bay of the north, now the entrance to the modern wing.

Windows are 6/6 and are flanked by paneled shutters below, louvred blinds above. Applied wooden lintels, shaped like a jack arch, are above each window. The second storey windows of the wing are pairs of four light casement sash. Sills are of roughly-worked stone.

The simple wooden cornice extends up the rakes of the main house with a moderate overhang; there are no horizontal returns at the eaves. Three dormer windows, dating from the mid-twentieth century, light the attic storey from each side, and two small windows flanking the chimney light it from the end; there are no other windows in the end.

(see continuation sheet #2)



Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

Internally, a central hall extends through the middle bay, with an open staircase rising, with intermediate landings, to the third floor. A single room flanks the hall in each storey. Remaining original detailing includes the staircase with its chamfered newels and moulded handrail, chair railing throughout, many fully-raised six-panel doors and door architraves with ogee backband. Window trim, generally, appears to date from a period later in the nineteenth century, perhaps when the narrow window frames were installed. Window reveals of the west room in the first storey extend to the floor. Mantels are approximately contemporary with the house, but are said to have been installed in the twentieth century. A winding back stair once rose, enclosed, south of the east wing chimney; it has been removed, as have other interior details in the first storey of that wing.

The second floor plan is similar to the first; several closets have been added in the twentieth century, using doors contemporary with the house, and copies of the same. Ceilings in the two principal rooms of the second floor have large, simple plaster medallions on their ceilings. The west room has an architrave surround at what appears to be a fireplace, although there is neither firebox nor hearth, a condition which appears original. On plaster within the architrave surround is an early primitive painting of the house, the barn and springhouse.

The ceiling in the second storey of the wing is at the collar beams, which are exposed.

The third storey of the main house is finished in twentieth century materials and rafters are inaccessible to view.

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #7 continued

In the basement beneath the wing, once accessible at grade to the north (now beneath the north wing), is a large fireplace, fitted with a crane for cooking. A recess in the stonework at the back of the firebox suggests the opening to a former oven. The ceiling in the basement under the main house is plastered on hand-split lathe, fastened with wrought-iron nails. Walls are plastered on the stone. The space beneath the first storey's westerly fireplace and the two recesses flanking the chimney breast are finished as closets, with built-in shelves; architraves at their doors are joined with mortise and tenon, and applied ogee backbands are like those in the upper storeys.

Beneath the north entrance portico, accessible from the basement, is a vaulted stone structure, containing two rooms; the outer (northerly) room may once have been accessible from the outside through an entrance in the steep hillside, now somewhat minimized by the north addition to the house. The original function of these rooms was undoubtedly for cold storage of ice and root vegetables.

Southwest of the house are the stone walls of a former bank barn, which appears in the painting mentioned above. Beside a former entrance to the barn's lower storey is a stone inscribed:

A. OGDEN  
1808

Continuation Sheet #4

Question #9 continued

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and Baltimore County. (Philadelphia, 1881).

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland. (Baltimore, 1850).

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).